

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
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O 241612Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8902
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T USNATO 00765

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJECT: MBFR:WG CONSIDERATION OF AVERAGE MANNING LEVEL
(AML) PAPER

REF: (A) USNATO 575 DTG 181906Z JAN 78, (B) USNATO 492
DTG 171806Z JAN 78

1. MBFR WG CHAIRMAN DUBUISSON CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER
JAN 23 CONCERNING INTER ALIA CURRENT US POSITION ON
AML PAPER. DUBUISSON SOUGHT WASHINGTON'S INTENTIONS ON
THE FUTURE OF THE STUDY AND SAID HE FELT THERE WAS SOME
CONTRADICTION BETWEEN OUR DESIRE TO SEE THE DATA
EXCHANGE GET UNDER WAY QUICKLY AND SMOOTHLY AND OUR
SEEMING RELUCTANCE AND/OR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE AML
PAPER. HE HOPED THE AML PAPER WOULD BE CLEARED AT THE
NEXT WG MEETING (WITH, OBVIOUSLY, A MINIMUM OF CHANGE)
AND FORWARDED TO THE SPC FOR CONSIDERATION. AS WE NOTED
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IN REF A, THE WG GROUP STAFF FEELS THE STUDY IN ITS
CURRENT FORM HAS ABOUT REACHED ITS LIMITS GIVEN
THE SCANTY INFORMATION AND CONSTRAINTS ON SPECULATION.

2. IN OUR INFORMAL SOUNDINGS HERE, WE DETECT A
DESIRE TO FINISH THE AML STUDY RELATIVELY PROMPTLY. THIS
IS MORE TO CLEAR THE BOARDS FOR MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE

FUTURE WORK PROGRAM (I.E. STABILIZATION AND VERIFICATION) THAN BECAUSE THE AML STUDY IS CONSIDERED OF INTRINSIC VALUE. WG MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT WHILE THE STUDY CAN BE TINKERED WITH FURTHER, THE BENEFITS WOULD BE MARGINAL AS IT IS THE SPC WHICH MUST CONSIDER THE KEY "POLITICAL" ISSUES -- WHETHER, WHEN AND IN WHAT MANNER TO FURTHER QUESTION THE EAST ON THE ISSUE.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE STUDY (REF B) COMES CLOSE TO MEETING US NEEDS AND THAT ADDITIONAL, EXTENSIVE REVISIONS ON OUR PART WOULD BE VIEWED AS OBSTRUCTIVE. WHILE WE EXPECT THE JAN 26 MEETING TO GENERATE COMMENTS FROM THOSE PREVIOUSLY WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS OR RESPONDING TO US SUGGESTIONS, WE RECOMMEND LIMITING OUR INTERVENTIONS TO THE MINIMUM, DESIGNED TOWARD SECURING CONSENSUS AND MOVING THE STUDY TO THE SPC. AT THAT POINT, WE CAN TAKE UP THE POLITICAL DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER WE WISH TO PROBE THE EAST FURTHER ON THIS PROPOSAL, OR DELAY FURTHER ACTION PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THE VIENNA DATA DISCUSSIONS.
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